

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 27, 2009

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk  
600 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear President Obama and U.S. Trade Representative Kirk,

We respectfully request that you continue our nation's history of promoting Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) – in particular the U.S.-Colombia FTA, which did not receive full consideration by the House of Representatives in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. In addition, we request that the Administration act on the other two already-negotiated Free Trade Agreements with South Korea and Panama by submitting implementing legislation to Congress as soon as possible.

We are encouraged by some of the statements made in U.S. Trade Representative Kirk's testimony in front of the Senate Finance Committee on March 9, 2009. In particular, we commend him on his willingness to move quickly on the Panama FTA. At the same time, we urge him to act promptly on the Colombia and South Korea FTAs.

FTAs bolster and expand American markets, keep the United States globally competitive, and create opportunities for more jobs at home. U.S. exports to our FTA partner countries have grown 40% faster than U.S. exports to the rest of the world. Thus, more FTAs would provide robust economic benefits to Americans at this time of economic crisis.

At a time when the economy is in need of a strong boost, we have a chance to expand market access to goods and services abroad, providing for new economic opportunities and investment. We welcome the opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to address your concerns with the South Korea, Colombia, and Panama FTAs. However, the Administration should not allow political pressure to prevent timely congressional consideration of these critically important agreements. Quick action in this regard would send welcome signals to markets worldwide that America is aggressively pursuing avenues of free-market economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Price".

Tom Price, M.D.  
*RSC Chairman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Kirk".

Mark Steven Kirk  
*Tuesday Group Co-Chairman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. W. Dent".

Charles W. Dent  
*Tuesday Group Co-Chairman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wally Herger".

Wally Herger  
*Member of Congress*